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METRONEWS

5 BIG IDEAS FOR OUR CITY

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JASON LOGAN

Councillors in hot seat

ELECTION COMPLIANCE

Expense gaffes due to 'clerical errors': Auditor

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

The election expense gaffes of two Ottawa city councillors can be boiled down to "clerical errors," according to a third-party auditor.

But Mark Taylor and Eli El-Chantiry will face the city's election compliance audit committee next week — the body that will decide whether or not to prosecute the municipal representatives of Bay Ward and West Carleton-March, respectively.

The city posted the audit reports, conducted by Raymond Grant Chabot Thornton, in advance of Monday's committee.

One report states Taylor's election expense mix-up — someone noted the two-time councillor had no deficit in 2010, when he was actually $5,121 in the red — was due to a "clerical error." The same goes for El-Chantiry's two audit issues, which were a $100 nomination fee refund someone on his team failed to calculate as income and a misreported $1,754 bookkeeping fee.

Taylor did not want to presuppose anything, but was optimistic about his case.

The committee, headed by former Elections Canada chief electoral officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley, will then decide whether or not to prosecute the councillors and whether there were reasonable grounds for their applications. If there are no reasonable grounds, the applicant Pat Ready must pay the auditor's fees.

"I feel like we're in a pretty good place.
Coun. Mark Taylor on the status of his case

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Life story kicks off testimony

COURT

Sen. Mike Duffy speaks for the first time at his trial

Sen. Mike Duffy arrives at the courthouse for his trial in Ottawa on Tuesday. Defence lawyer Donald Bayne's line of questioning led to a recount of Duffy's personal and professional history, leading to his meeting with Stephen Harper. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mike Duffy's first day of testimony could be dubbed "The Story of My Life" — a long, often entertaining account of his childhood in Prince Edward Island, successful years in journalism, grim medical history and his entry into the Senate.

"Nothing in my life ... has been simple or straightforward," Duffy told his lawyer, Donald Bayne.

It was the first time Duffy has spoken publicly since he stood briefly to plead "not guilty" to the 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery back when the trial started in April.

The 69-year-old is much thinner now, and so is the crowd in the courtroom following the electoral defeat of Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

But Duffy has long waited for the chance to share his side of the story on his contested living and office expenses, and the $90,000 he received to repay some of those claims from Harper's chief of staff Nigel Wright.

Duffy has maintained he was railroaded by Harper's staff into repaying the claims, when he felt he had done nothing wrong.

The defence strategy on the first day of testimony was to build a portrait of a man with solid ties to Prince Edward Island, a long, successful journalism career with no experience running an office, and chronic health problems that made him vulnerable to pressure.

"But the relevance to the fraud charges?" an exasperated Crown attorney Mark Holmes asked.

"This was going on while he was being subjected to all this pressure. Your Honour is going to make judgment to the susceptibility of the pressure that was being put on him," Bayne said.

Duffy's lawyer began by taking his client painstakingly through his family ties to Prince Edward Island. Duffy's grandfather Charles Gavan Duffy, for example, was the Speaker of the provincial legislature. His parents lived there their entire lives, and his siblings still do.

Duffy began hosting a TV show for high school kids at 15, while sending stories about football games to The Canadian Press. By 17, he dropped out of school to work for the Charlottetown Guardian for $30 a week.

Duffy bounced around different journalism jobs in radio, briefly working in Ottawa before he was let go two weeks later.

"I have to be honest with you, you will never make it in this business. Go sell ties at Eaton's," Duffy says he was told by one radio station boss.

Duffy persisted, finally getting his big break by paying his own way to Toronto to cover the dramatic Progressive Conservative leadership convention for a Halifax radio station.

Duffy began working on Parliament Hill in 1973 for a private radio network, and by the following year had been hired by CBC — which he called a "magical" time. By 1978, he was working as a national reporter for the network. That's when his first marriage began to fall apart.

"I lost my kids, they moved away, eventually as far as B.C.," Duffy said, pausing momentarily as his voice broke.

Duffy's career continued its upward trajectory and he was eventually hired by CTV to host a show called "Sunday Edition."

He spent 20 years with the network before receiving the invitation from Harper to sit in the Senate in late 2008.

Duffy said the conversation unfolded inside Harper's office across from Parliament Hill. He said Harper asked him whether he owned property in Prince Edward Island.

Duffy explained that he and his wife had purchased a cottage in Cavendish with the intention of moving there in retirement.

"What was your intention?" asked Bayne.

"When you grow up in P.E.I., there's nowhere you'd rather be when you have time to enjoy it," Duffy said.

"Having shown Heather the island from my point of view, from the backroads, the clay roads ... these are where my roots are, this is where my family is, this is where my forebears are buried."

Harper long insisted that owning $4,000 worth of property was enough for an individual to meet the constitutional requirement for sitting in the Senate, as he felt owning the property equated with residency.

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5 IDEAS TO TRANSFORM OTTAWA

The National Capital Commission is asking for help coming up with projects to be included in the commission's Plan for Canada's Capital, the framework that will shape the city until Canada's 200th anniversary in 2067. The NCC is asking people to share their big ideas on its website, or on social media using the hashtag #Capital2067. We would like to hear your ideas, too: Tweet at us (@metroottawa) or email us (ottawaletters@metronews.ca) with your suggestions. In the meantime, here are a few possible "big ideas" suggested by Metro Ottawa. **MICHAEL WOODS/METRO** MICHAEL.WOODS@METRONEWS.CA

1 Utilize prime real estate

Milestone projects don't need to be completely new; they can also involve much-needed revitalization. The old train station at Sussex Drive and Wellington Street will serve as the home for the Senate during Centre Block renovations for a few years, but after that it's a prime candidate for a new museum. The old U.S. embassy a bit further west, meanwhile, has sat vacant since 1999 and is in an absolutely prime spot across from Parliament Hill. And let's not forget LeBreton Flats, the proposals for which will be unveiled next month.

2 Indigenous embassy

Aside from the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Confederation Park, which commemorates indigenous peoples who served in the Canadian military, there's no significant architectural representation of First Nations people in the capital. An indigenous embassy and/or museum in Ottawa would change that.

3 Open up the waterfront

Unless you're a cyclist or runner, the Ottawa River could be a lot more accessible to the average pedestrian; we see potential for boardwalks connecting large public spaces along the riverbank. And the Ottawa River parkway, while providing for a scenic drive, also creates a separation between communities and the water.

4 Revitalize Confederation Square

To be fair, this is actually the NCC's idea. Chief executive Mark Kristmanson raised it earlier this year, suggesting that the National War Memorial's centennial in 2039 would be a good time to redo Confederation Square to accommodate thousands more people during national ceremonies. We agree.

5 Ottawa-Gatineau gondola

Imagine touring the Parliament buildings, heading over to the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, then coming back to the Ottawa side of the river — all without having to walk or drive! A gondola across the river would accomplish this, while working to strengthen ties between the cities and giving tourists another view of the capital.

SESQUICENTENNIAL

CIBC sponsors party

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Mayor Jim Watson announced Tuesday morning that the city is partnering with CIBC for Canada's 150-year birthday celebrations in 2017.

Watson called the agreement "a multi-million dollar, multi-year partnership" but did not give a specific dollar amount. CIBC will also be turning 150 in 2017 and their logo has been incorporated into the 2017 design.

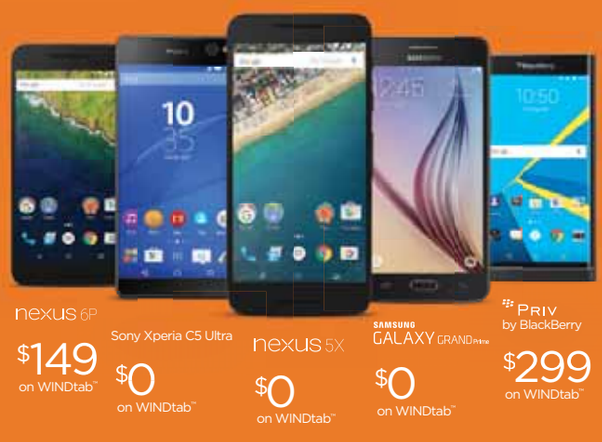
"No other event has had this significant investment in the history of our city," he said. "It will be an exciting year for our country."

CIBC executive vice-president Stephen Forbes addressed a crowd of Chamber of Commerce members Tuesday when the announcement was made at the Mayor's Breakfast event.

Forbes and Watson both compared the investment to CIBC's sponsorship of the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games in Toronto.

The announcement also included that a special evening celebration will take place at the Shaw Centre on July 1, 2017, with "entertainment never seen before in Ottawa."

Downtown Ottawa will also host an "inspiration village" during the year with week-long tributes to the cultures of each province and territory in the country.



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Steve McEwen's electric Tesla charges at the city hall station on Tuesday. He says the only thing holding back electric vehicles is the lack of charging stations. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

City wants car chargers

TRANSPORTATION

Council is interested if province will foot the bill

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

The city would install more car chargers if the province paid for them, Coun. Keith Egli said Tuesday.

The transportation committee chairman was responding to the province's plan to give $20 million to "public and private partners" to expand Ontario's electric vehicle charging network.

Few details are available — a full plan is due later this month — so it's unclear if the city is eligible, Egli said.

But "the city is absolutely interested in making an application," he said.

That's good news, said Steve McEwen, who commutes downtown in his Tesla. He uses city hall's free station on Lisgar Road. McEwen said the busy spot could use a second charger.

"The only thing holding back electric vehicles is charging stations," McEwen said.

According to Plugshare.com, Ottawa has about 65 public charging locations right now, five of them city-operated, with a mix of free and pay-per-use models. Most are level two, which can charge a Nissan Leaf in about three hours.

But Gérard Gavrel, president of the Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa, said the real problem is travelling outside the city.

"It would be nice to have one every 100 kilometres," Gavrel said.

DC superchargers would be ideal, as they can fill a car in 30 minutes. There's a cost, though: a level two station runs about $3,000, while a supercharger is $40,000, Gavrel said.

Egli said staff is discussing what they'd like to install going forward.

IN BRIEF

Fifty paintings donated to National Gallery of Canada
Fifty paintings by Canadian artist J.W. Morrice have been donated to the National Gallery of Canada.

The gallery says the A.K. Prakash Foundation made the donation in honour of the 150th anniversary of Morrice's birth. The paintings are valued at more than $20 million, and in recognition of the donation, the Gallery is renaming one of its exhibition rooms the Ash. K. Prakash Gallery for the next 25 years. The Gallery says Morrice was one of the most influential Canadian painters of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. METRO

WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

Company asks judge to toss Mugshots lawsuit

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

A lawyer for Ottawa's jail hostel is asking a Superior Court judge to dismiss a lawsuit from ex-employees who are claiming $18,835 for wrongful dismissal.

On Oct. 20, five bartenders and servers who worked at Mugshots bar in the Nicholas Street hostel filed a lawsuit with the court after it was abruptly closed on July 9. Those workers are entitled to compensation between $3,000 to $5,000 each, according to a statement of claim.

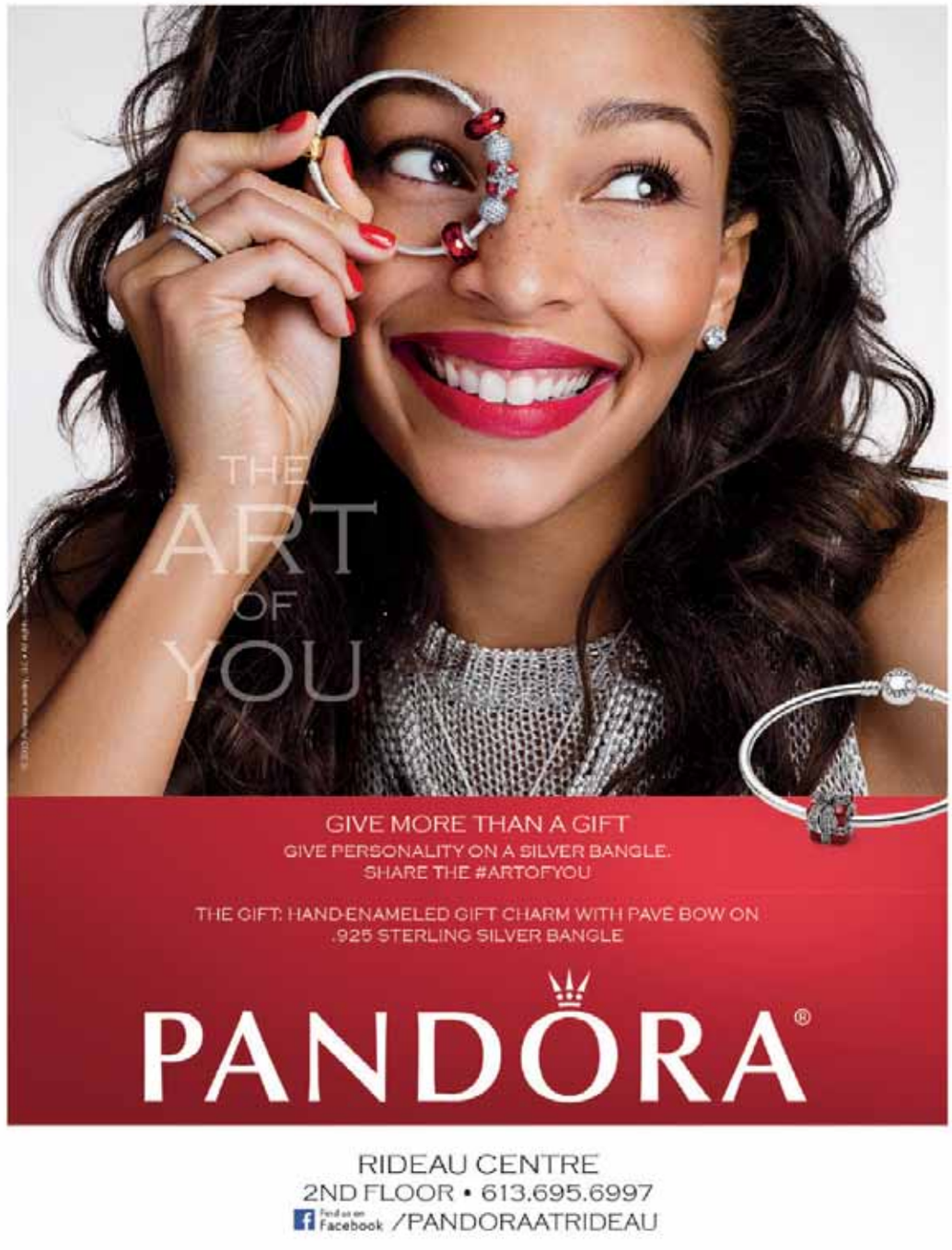
None of the allegations in the statement of claim have been proven in court.

Auberge de Jeunesse du St-Laurent Inc., the company that operates Hosteling International in Ontario, is listed as the defendant.

In a statement of defence filed on Nov. 10, the company's lawyer argues the workers were not dismissed and "no damages are owed."

It alleges employees stormed out of a staff meeting on July 11 and failed to show up for scheduled shifts, and, ultimately, failed to notify management before a July 12 deadline as to whether or not they wished to continue working. The document claims the workers' allegations of dismissal are "unfounded" and the damages being sought by the five plaintiffs are "grossly inflated" and do not reflect actual earnings. Auberge disputes the claim that workers earned an average of $300 in tips per employee each week and noted it ran a deficit every year since it opened.

"In the alternative, should the court find that the damages for wrongful dismissal are owing, which is not admitted but specifically denied, Auberge states that the damages claimed are excessive, especially in light of the plaintiff's brief periods of service," the statement of defence states.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Chiefs debate Zibi development

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

AFN passes opposition, but 90 of 106 voters abstain

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The Assembly of First Nations chiefs passed a controversial resolution Tuesday to oppose the major development project slated to transform Ottawa's waterfront near Chaudière Falls.

The resolution, which asks the AFN to oppose Windmill's Zibi development, passed with four nays, 12 yeas and 90 abstentions.

"It's a very serious issue for us, it's all around the issue of consultation, which under the new government is supposed to be heading in a new direction," said Chief Harold St-Denis of Wolf Lake First Nation, who proposed the resolution.

> **It seems like there's going to be a little rift between the Algonquin people.**
> Chief Cliff Meness

Windmill's Zibi project aims to be one of the most sustainable communities in the world and has received support from a number of local Algonquin leaders but has also not been without opposition.

The resolution, proposed by nine Algonquin bands, says the islands are sacred territory and has called for the former industrial lands to be decontaminated and preserved as Algonquin-controlled parkland.

Cliff Meness, acting as a proxy chief for the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn, a band that has formally supported the Zibi project, argued against the proposal.

"Something has been hidden here from the chiefs," said Meness.

"They talk about Algonquin nation but nowhere does it include the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn. It seems like there's going to be a little rift between the Algonquin people," he said. "We have a number of people who are interested in employment (with Windmill)."

An image of the Windmill Development, called Zibi, along the Chaudière Crossing. CONTRIBUTED

St-Denis described the job opportunities Windmill has proposed as a "trinket."

The chairman asked the motion to be tabled so the two groups could come to an agreement, but St-Denis said he had tried multiple times to meet with Pikwàkanagàn.

Most chiefs abstained after a concern was raised that they were being asked to "pick a side" in an Algonquin disagreement.

"Clearly the will of the assembly is that the parties work it out," said the chairman, although the resolution still carried under the rules of the assembly.

RESPONSE

Jeff Westeinde, one of the founders of Windmill, said he was surprised the issue was taken to the Assembly of First Nations.

"The chiefs cite a lack of consultation, but for the last 2-1/2 years now we've been reaching out. We've written to all of the tribal councils and/or communities in Quebec and Ontario," he said.

The outreach resulted in support and partnerships from the Algonquins of Ontario, Pikwàkanagàn chief Kirby Whiteduck in Ontario and Wanda Thusky, co-owner of Kitigan Zibi-based Decontie Construction Inc. in Quebec. The response from Quebec was "largely silence," Westeinde said.

"Clearly there is a difference of opinion here and bringing it to the AFN is not the most appropriate thing I think," he said.

Westeinde said Windmill's approach in reaching out to Algonquins is a first for private developers in the area.

"In an ideal world we'd love to see the Algonquin community engage with us and talk about how they can be active partners," he said.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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More traffic officers needed: Councillor

OTTAWA POLICE

River Ward rep says speeding 'No. 1 safety issue'

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Despite Ottawa police hiring 25 new officers next year, which would bring the force's traffic units back to normal staffing levels, River Ward Coun. Riley Brockington says he's not holding his breath to see any immediate changes to traffic enforcement in his ward.

The 25 new hires are not going to the traffic unit, police Chief Charles Bordeleau told the Ottawa Police Services Board Nov. 30 meeting.

However, the traffic cops who were taken off their beat at the beginning of this year to tackle Bordeleau's other strategic priorities — gangs and violence against women — will be hitting the streets again next year.

In a meeting with the chief on Monday, Brockington said Bordeleau didn't know where he plans to allocate new hires in the next two years.

"That buys me some time to see how effective those 'additional bodies in the unit' in River Ward are and then come back and have a discussion probably six to nine months from now on what do we need for 2017," the councillor said in an interview Tuesday.

"I'm already thinking we need more,"

He said speeding and red light running are the "No. 1 safety issue" in his ward.

During a traffic blitz he oversaw on Nov. 5 in Carleton Heights, a constable handed out several tickets to drivers for various traffic infractions, he said.

"It was just one after another," said Brockington.

> **That buys me some time to see how effective those 'additional bodies in the unit' are. I'm already thinking we need more.**
> Coun. Riley Brockington

2016 BUDGET

Capital needs more arts capital: Lobby

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

An Ottawa cultural group is making a plea for more arts funding as the city prepares to table its 2016 budget.

Although there are few changes to the $3-billion operating budget, which goes to council on Wednesday, the Ottawa Cultural Alliance is still holding out hope for $1.2 million more in arts funding. That will inch the city closer to the countrywide cultural funding average.

"Average is not beyond our reach," said Sean Wilson, artistic director for the Ottawa International Writers Festival. "We're not looking for world-class funding."

The group is asking for a renewed injection into the city's six-year, $5-million "action plan" for arts, culture and heritage. Midway through that plan, the city has only funded 22 per cent of its planned base operating investments, the group says.

The city has so far invested $1.6 million in the Arts Court redevelopment, which is "phenomenal," he said, but festivals and museums have been left holding the bag.

Money is not flowing, however, as council and staff stare down a $36.3-million budget shortfall. They're working within Mayor Jim Watson's promised two-per-cent tax cap.

In his budget speech, Watson pegged 1.5 per cent more in "cultural funding."

Pointing to big festivals like RBC Ottawa Bluesfest, the TD Ottawa Jazz Festival and Ottawa Chamberfest, Wilson said the arts have positive ripple effects.

The Ottawa Cultural Alliance asks residents to lobby councillors in advance of Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017.

"The world is supposed to be coming to Ottawa and you've got the arts community essentially on life support," said Wilson.

Ottawa Arts Court redevelopment. SUPPLIED/CITY OF OTTAWA

NEWCOMERS

Immigrant group starts new networking program

An organization dedicated to supporting newcomers get settled in the city announced a new program Tuesday aimed at helping them expand their professional networks.

The Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization's (OCISO) Ottawa Connector Program would connect a newcomer with three people in a "Connector's" network.

Additionally, each of those three people will refer the newcomer to three more people, in the hopes of finding employment.

The program is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and is delivered in partnership with the National Connector Program.

"Landing the right job is all about having timely labour market knowledge and access to opportunities. The Connector program is designed to deliver both," said Leslie Emory, OCISO executive director.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Trudeau a 'partner' with new pledges

FIRST NATIONS

Inquiry announced, funding cap lifted

The leaders of Canada's First Nations swaddled Justin Trudeau in a ceremonial blanket Tuesday as they embraced the newly elected prime minister's commitment to what he called a "sacred obligation" to the country's Aboriginal Peoples.

Trudeau didn't show up empty-handed, either.

The Liberal government will lift a long-standing two per cent cap on federal funding for First Nations communities, he told the Assembly of First Nations gathering — that, despite mounting economic and political pressure on the federal pocketbook.

He said the Liberals would also provide additional money for long-awaited education reforms to be led by First Nations communities themselves, another long-standing sticking point with the previous Tory government.

And he repeated one of the most anticipated promises of the 2015 campaign: to investigate the tragedy of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. Three of his cabinet lieutenants kicked off the first consultative phase of what will be a federal inquiry next year.

"I promise you that I will be your partner in the years to come, and hope that you will be mine," Trudeau said.

The removal of the funding cap, which was imposed to keep transfer payments in line with inflation, has been top of the First Nations wish list for years. Critics say it has long since fallen out of step with a growing aboriginal population across the country.

But the most anticipated news came later, when Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and Status of Women Minister Patty Hajdu detailed the first phase of the inquiry. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PROMISE KEPT

With the Tuesday announcement that it's launching a national public inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women, the new Liberal government followed through on a central promise in its efforts to renew the relationship with Canada's indigenous peoples. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO OTTAWA

PM Justin Trudeau and AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde. Bellegarde said he's confident that Trudeau is listening to the different needs of First Nations. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCIENCE

Scientists look for a tougher sunflower

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Imagine a sunflower that can grow using water more efficiently, even thriving in conditions as harsh as the Mojave Desert while still producing many seeds.

That's what an international team of scientists led by Vancouver botanist Loren Rieseberg is hoping to achieve through research he believes could improve food security for people around the world in the face of climate change.

"Drought is by far the biggest stress for sunflowers," Rieseberg, a botany professor at the University of B.C., told Metro. "The idea of our research is to make cultivated sunflowers that are extremely drought tolerant, but also tolerant of flooding, salt stress and low nutrient stress."

The team is using genomics to identify genes that have evolved in wild sunflowers to make them resilient to environmental stresses, and to breed cultivated sunflowers with the same favourable traits.

IN BRIEF

Ikea monkey getting new roomies

On the eve of the Ikea monkey's third anniversary at a sanctuary, workers are building enclosures for two potential roommates. The courts placed him at the facility northeast of Toronto in 2012 after he was found wandering outside a Toronto Ikea store. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Governator takes aim at climate change

Former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday urged sub-national governments such as cities and provinces at the international conference on climate change in Paris to march forward 'like a Terminator' on environmental issues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Trump sparks global outrage

UNITED STATES

Candidate stands by plan to ban Muslims from entering

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's call to block Muslims — both immigrants and visitors — from entering the U.S. is being met with a chorus of near-universal condemnation from across the country and around the globe.

From the halls of Congress to 10 Downing Street, Trump's statement Monday advocating a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" was blasted as bigoted, unconstitutional and potentially dangerous for American interests abroad.

Trump's proposal is down to what he describes as hatred among "large segments of the Muslim population" toward Americans.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, breaking the custom of British leaders not commenting on U.S. presidential contenders, slammed the proposal as "divisive, unhelpful and quite simply wrong."

UN spokesman Farhan Haq said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon denounced "any kind of rhetoric that relies on Islamophobia, xenophobia, any other appeal to hate any groups."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints issued a statement in support of religious freedom.

"This is not conservatism," Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan told reporters. "What was proposed yesterday is not what this party stands for, and more importantly it's not what this country stands for."

Trump's campaign has been marked by a pattern of inflammatory statements, dating back to rhetoric that some Mexican immigrants, who entered the country illegally, are drug smugglers and rapists — but even that didn't evoke the same widespread level of contempt.

The billionaire businessman and former reality TV star has maintained his lead in early opinion surveys, despite the controversies, vexing his Republican rivals and alarming a Republican establishment in panic over the damage they fear he's doing to a deeply divided party.

Trump, who appears to revel in the attention, didn't back down from his proposal Tuesday, saying that banning Muslims "until our country's representatives can figure out what the hell is going on" is warranted after last month's attacks by Muslim extremists in Paris and last week's shootings in San Bernardino, Calif.

"I don't care about them," Trump told CNN Tuesday when asked about denunciation by Republican leaders. He said the country needs to recognize that it's at war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate and businessman Donald Trump speaks during a rally aboard aircraft carrier USS Yorktown in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Monday. MIC SMITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EFFECTS

Canada would feel impact of President Trump

If Donald Trump becomes U.S. president, it would cause contention within the U.S. and lead to a major decline in America's moral influence in the world, said Stephen Clarkson, a professor of political science at the University of Toronto.

A President Trump would be a disaster for Canada, too, considering its close economic ties and shared border with the U.S. Should Trump's bombast lead to a military action or another act of terrorism against the U.S., Canada has obligations under NATO to respond and there would be considerable pressure to back up its allied nation, even if it is led by Trump, Clarkson said.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

REACTION

Muslims respond to proposal

Muslims around the world provide their thoughts on U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump's proposal to ban Muslims from entering the U.S.

FERAS ALI ABOU GHABEN, 30, Palestinian-American stock broker: "Trump has managed to gain votes through hate speech. I do not see anyone doing anything about it and that scares me. What terrified me even more was the applause that came after his speech."

ADHAM HAMADA, 34, Cairo businessman: "How will they know if I'm Muslim or not? It's not in my passport. That's why I feel it's just political talk."

AMR ALI, 30, a chemist living in Cairo: "The idea by itself is insulting and offensive. If they are going to ban all Muslims because of the people that Muslim terrorists killed, then let's ban all Europeans because of the people who were killed during colonial times."

AHMED YOUSRI, 23, a banker living in Cairo: "We must also blame our media and religious leaders for not preventing extremist thought from expanding. That is their role and they are not taking it as seriously as they should. But what Trump is doing is giving ISIL (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) a more legitimate cause for its existence. It will justify their acts and help them recruit people."

BASSEM YOUSSEF, former talk-show host known as the Jon Stewart of the Middle East: (On Twitter) "I didn't know Donald Trump was fluent in Nazi." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN BERNARDINO

Couple practised with rifles

Days before killing 14 people at a holiday party, Syed Farook practised with a rifle during one of several recent visits to a Southern California shooting range, authorities said. Sometimes he was joined by his wife, his partner in the attack.

Farook visited Riverside Magnum Range in San Bernardino on Nov. 29 and 30, according to an instructor at the range about 32 kilometres from the Inland Regional Center, where the couple opened fire on Farook's co-workers on Dec. 2.

John Galletta said nothing was out of the ordinary about Farook's behaviour but that Farook asked a range employee why his rifle might be smoking. He was told it was most likely because it was new.

> **How are you able to determine what somebody's intents are?**
> Instructor John Galletta

The FBI said Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, embraced violent Islamist ideology.

"Both subjects were radicalized and have been for quite some time," said David Bowdich, chief of the FBI's Los Angeles office. "How did that happen and by whom and where did that happen? Right now we don't know those answers."

Authorities also disclosed that a year before the rampage, Farook's co-workers at the San Bernardino County health department underwent training on how to react to a workplace shooter in the same conference room where the couple opened fire.

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People stand inside a closed Chipotle restaurant on Monday in the Cleveland Circle neighbourhood of Boston.
STEVEN SENNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students ill after eating at Chipotle

BOSTON COLLEGE

Chain believes incident not linked to E. coli outbreak

Boston College said Tuesday the number of students complaining of gastrointestinal symptoms after eating at a Chipotle this weekend has climbed to 80, up from the 30 it reported the previous day.

The illnesses come as Chipotle's sales are already being slammed by a multi-state outbreak of E. coli linked to its restaurants. The company says it thinks the Boston College illnesses are an isolated case of norovirus and unrelated to the E. coli cases.

"All of the evidence we have points in that direction," said Chris Arnold, a Chipotle spokesman.

Boston College said it is working with state health officials and that all students who reported symptoms have been tested for both E. Coli and norovirus. It said results will not be available for at least two days.

According to a report from the Boston Inspectional Services department, which is responsible for inspecting the city's restaurants, an employee at the Chipotle restaurant in Cleveland Circle was sick while working a shift Thursday.

William Christopher, the department's commissioner, said it was not immediately known if management at the Chipotle was aware of the employee's symptoms. He said the restaurant's permit to operate has been suspended by the city and that a disinfection process has begun.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, infected workers cause about 70 per cent of reported norovirus outbreaks from contaminated food.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Food industry resists mandatory GMO labels
Food companies in the U.S. are mounting an aggressive year-end push to head off mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods. The food industry wants the labeling to be voluntary, and it hopes to get a provision in a massive spending bill that Republicans and Democrats want to wrap up this week.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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$1,075.30 US (+10¢)

NATURAL GAS: $2.070 US (+0.3¢)
DOW JONES: 17,568.00 (–162.51)

AWARD-WINNER

Stores just can't keep top whisky on shelves

It was recently named World Whisky of the Year, but good luck getting your hands on a bottle of Crown Royal's Northern Harvest Rye, as the award-winning Canadian whisky is flying off the shelves.

In Ontario, for example, sales at LCBO stores have increased more than 400 per cent thanks to the accolade. The product is available only on a first come, first served basis in the province. No bottles can be reserved or specially ordered because of the high demand.

The Northern Harvest Rye is the first Canadian whisky to receive the honour of being named World Whisky of the Year by revered whisky connoisseur Jim Murray.

Murray's Whisky Bible is the go-to guide for whisky enthusiasts, and each annual edition contains thousands of detailed whisky reviews and notes.

A 750 millilitre bottle is sells for $30.60 in Ontario.

Alistair Kidd, whisky brand director at Diageo Canada, which distributes the Northern Harvest Rye, said that being named whisky of the year turned the beverage into "a hot commodity among Canadian consumers leading into the holidays."

A bottle sold for over $165 on eBay in Germany this week, while a bottle was put up for sale last week in Toronto on Craigslist for $80.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Crown Royal's Northern Harvest Rye.
CONTRIBUTED

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, December 9, 2015

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

I made the mistake of starting things back up with someone I had a "casual" relationship with. He didn't want me to be involved with any other guys, but he wanted to see other women. I blocked his number. Now I miss our friendship. What should I do?

Ani Castillo

Dear Ellen,

I made the mistake of starting things back up with someone I had a "casual" relationship with. The last time we saw each other he was really emotional about an ex-girlfriend and told me he still loved her. When we originally stopped talking, I didn't mind. But when we reconnected, I started to feel an emotional connection to him. After the last meeting, I truly felt hurt. I cried. He wanted us to continue seeing each other, but he didn't want me to be involved with any other guys. The sad part was he wanted to see other women, including me, but sleep with just his ex and me. I decided enough was enough. I texted him after the last meeting, letting him know we could not continue down the same road. I didn't give him a chance to respond. I blocked his number. Lately I find that I can't stop thinking about him. I miss him and our "friendship." What should I do?

L, Toronto, Ont.

Dear L,

Some might say this is not, strictly speaking, an etiquette question. But I've found through my own romantic ups and downs that good manners can often help guide the way through emotional thickets. So let's see what we can do for you in regards to politely handling your own broken heart.

I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but your only choice right now is to suffer.

First, let's look at his behaviour. He sounds pretty screwed up. But at least he's not sneakily hiding his desire to get back with his ex-girlfriend. And he's been absolutely forthright about his ridiculous proposition that you remain available to him — and him alone — while he dates as many women as he wants while continuing to sleep with both you and his ex. So, credit to him for being honest, albeit insanely unreasonable.

It also sounds as if you've been straight with him, which shows your own excellent manners. You respectfully informed him in a text that you could not accept the "road" he was offering. Then you blocked his number. Is it rude to cut off communication like this?

Yes, if the other person deserves to be heard (and your conscience will tell you if that is the case). But it's not rude if you've both had your say and it's clear that one or both parties want the relationship to end.

Which brings us to your question: What should you do?

If you break down and see him, and give him what he wants (sex and friendship with no commitment while he sleeps with his ex-girlfriend), you will resent him and suffer. If you stay strong and keep his number blocked, but continue to obsess about him and wonder if you've made a huge mistake by cutting him off before he's had a chance to change and see how wonderful you are, you will doubt yourself and suffer.

I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but your only choice right now is to suffer. Respect your broken heart, and expedite the healing process by forgetting what you "should" do. You're already doing it — agonizing through an impossible situation that only time will heal (and it will).

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Finally, acknowledgment that racism and sexism kill indigenous women

"It is time to hear their voices. It is time for justice," declared Claudette Commanda, an elder and band council member from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Nation in Quebec, an eagle feather in her hand.

She stood on Parliament Hill, welcoming reporters and family members of missing and murdered indigenous women to the announcement we all knew was coming: a national inquiry. It had all the trappings of a press conference, but the scene was imbued, even via a live video feed, with something different.

Something approaching humility, even sisterhood.

Commanda asked for a moment of silence for lives lost, and holding the feather high above her head, she teared up. She expressed hope for an end to violence against indigenous women, but her emotion suggested that she may actually believe in this announcement, believe there will be change.

Jody Wilson-Raybould, the minister of justice and a former B.C. First Nations chief, hugged Commanda before taking the podium. She, and the ministers of status of women and indigenous and northern affairs, attended a traditional ceremony the day before. They were carrying the eagle feathers gifted to them. As each finished speaking, they hugged, kissed cheeks.

It was as if a support circle stood behind the podium: Four women embracing each other and indigenous teachings in the search for answers to deeply engrained violence. Ministers listening to Commanda's prayer for help from the Creator with more than impersonal respect.

This wasn't the only heartfelt government announcement ever made. But it felt as if the "government" had been knocked from some pedestal. The welfare of indigenous Canadians, or all Canadians, had been put in its place.

That the press conference was about women, and delivered only by women, also felt significant — though women have given press conferences before. But these women seemed bound by their hearts as well as their priorities.

The ministers delivered talking points, citing high rates of violence against indigenous women, the need for justice and violence prevention.

The need to not be a government program, but a program devised by the people, to be implemented by government. Hence the choice to let the inquiry's details be shaped by consultation with experts and victims' families.

The media pressed for details. One CBC reporter asked about the impact of racism, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett was unequivocal: "Racism and sexism in this country kills," she said. Behind the podium, the women hugged.

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Odds in fans' favour for Hunger Games prequels
Lionsgate studio vice chairman says movie franchise will live on

A.J. CASSON DESIGN FOR CHRISTMAS CARD, 1927

THOREAU MACDONALD CHRISTMAS EVE. MACDONALD WAS COLOUR BLIND, SO HE WORKED MOSTLY IN BLACK AND WHITE

JACK BUSH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD, 1934. THE ABSTRACT PAINTER PRODUCED A NEW CHRISTMAS CARD EVERY YEAR

LAWREN HARRIS THIS UNDATED CARD EVOKES THE GROUP OF SEVEN PAINTER'S HIGH-MODERN LANDSCAPES OF THE 1930S

A.Y. JACKSON CHRISTMAS CARD PHOTOMECHANICAL PRINT WITH HAND-COLOURING ON COLOURED PAPER

FRANZ JOHNSTON 1930 CHRISTMAS CARD, DONE IN AN ART DECO STYLE

A.J. CASSON DESIGN FOR CHRISTMAS CARD, 1927. THIS CARD WAS MADE THE YEAR AFTER CASSON JOINED THE GROUP OF SEVEN

FRANKLIN CARMICHAEL MOUNTAIN ASH (ROWANBERRY) STATE II

Seasonal greetings down to a fine art

MCMICHAEL COLLECTION

Christmas cards from the Group of Seven and their peers

"This house was made for Christmas," Signe McMichael once famously declared about the modern pastoral estate she and her husband Robert built near Kleinburg, Ont. in the 1950s, and with its multiple open hearths and forests of towering pines all around — not to mention its owners' staunchly traditionalist world view — she was absolutely right.

Even with a mild fall not giving much away to the winter wonderland just around the corner, the old house had a throwback sense of festivity to come.

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection's careful handling of its founders' fraught legacy is never too far from mind, as Robert fought to the last to keep the museum's vaults locked tight from modern and contemporary work that he believed would damage the legacy of his beloved Group of Seven and their peers. But if there's one time of year to not let such auld acquaintance be forgot, as they say, and embrace the simple sentimentality of the season, well, this is it.

This year, Signe's words about the festive season become the title of a show of Christmas cards, which isn't as cutesy as it seems. Make no mistake: it's certainly that, but the show is also a showcase of talents from the canon of Canadian artists, many of whom — like a good chunk of the Group of Seven — got their start as graphic or commercial artists.

Blossoming into professional painters, many of them kept up the practice of card-making for their friends and family, lending their holiday greetings the powerfully personal touch of their talents.

And about that traditionalist legacy: While you'll find the familiars here in great number — Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, A.J. Casson and friends — a few abstractionists, like Kazuo Nakamura and Harold Towne, sneak into the mix, but none more welcome than Jack Bush.

ON DISPLAY This House Was Made For Christmas continues at the McMichael Collection of Canadian Art to Jan. 31.

Bush, who also began as a commercial illustrator, blossomed in his later years into one of the world's great abstract painters, as a major retrospective at National Gallery of Canada made clear.

Far from the robust abstraction of his legacy, Bush's cards are warming tributes to his personal life as a family man and man of faith, for whom the holidays brought special meaning he seemed bursting to share. Here, he ties it up with a bright red bow. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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4 Treats To Wow This Season

You don't have to be a kid to crave cookies this time of year. The holiday season is the one time you have a licence to bake (and eat) any (and all kinds) of treats. And you should. Homemade sweets are an easy way to make anyone feel giddy with happiness, and are impossible to resist. From spicy gingerbreads to sugar balls, these goodies make a thoughtful gift or easy dinner party dessert. They also taste pretty good with your morning coffee.

ALL PHOTOS BY MAYA VISNYEI

HOLIDAY TREATS

Chocolate Thumbprint Cookies

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

As classic as a sugar cookie, thumbprints can look sophisticated with a sparse sprinkling of icing sugar or kid-approved with lots of bells and whistles. We like bells and whistles.

Makes about 2 dozen

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup spelt flour
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened Dutch-process cocoa powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 6 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar holiday sprinkles, silver dragees, crushed candy cane, mini chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325 F.

2. Whisk the flours, granulated sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl. Add the melted butter and eggs and stir until combined. The dough will appear very dry just keep working it until you've incorporated all the ingredients. Cover and refrigerate the dough until firm, about 20 to 30 minutes.

3. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside. Place the confectioners' sugar in a bowl. Place the other toppings out in small bowls.

4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Scoop a tablespoon size amount of dough and roll it into a ball. Drop the ball in the confectioners' sugar and coat the outside.

Place it on prepared cookie sheet. Slightly flatten it with the palm of your hand and then press your thumbprint into the centre. Fill the centre with your choice of decoration. Repeat until dough is finished. Be sure to space the cookies two inches apart.

5. Bake the cookies until puffed and slightly cracked, about 10 minutes. Let cool three minutes on the baking sheets, then transfer to rack to cool completely.

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Coconut Snowballs

These little gems — with a hint of lemon — scream wintry treat.

Makes 2 dozen

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 3/4 cups sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 Tbsp cream cheese, softened
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 4 or 5 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1 1/2 cup sweetened shredded coconut

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.

2. Mix together flour, sugar, salt together in a bowl. With an electric mixer add softened butter about 1/4 cup at a time until it combines with the dry ingredients. You'll have a pebbly mixture.

Add 2 Tbsp of softened cream cheese and vanilla. You'll need to use your hands to bring the mixture together into a dough. Knead for a minute or two.

3. Line two cookie sheets with parchment.

4. Use a tablespoon to scoop the dough, roll it in your hands to make balls. Place on the lined sheets at least an inch apart. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until lightly browned. Take them out and allow them to cool completely on a rack.

5. While they cool, mix 3 Tbsp of lemon juice with 1 Tbsp of cream cheese. Slowly add 1 1/2 cups of confectioner's sugar until you have a thick icing. Now add as much lemon juice as you need to thin it out to a glaze.

6. On a plate, spread your coconut in a layer. Swirl each cookie in the glaze (let excess drip off) then press it in coconut to cover. Allow to set.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

EASY TO BAKE

Spiced Christmas Trees with Lemon Icing

Like your nostalgic favourite the gingerbread man, these spiced cookies look and taste every bit as festive.

Makes about 12

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/2 cups spelt flour, plus more for rolling
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp cloves
- 1 tsp coarse salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup unsulfured molasses

For Icing:
- 2 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 1/3 cups confectioners' sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk the flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and salt. In a separate bowl, cream together the butter and sugar with a hand mixer until creamy.

3. Beat the egg and then add. Mix until combined. Add molasses until combined.

4. With the mixer on low, gradually add your flour, blend until combined. Remove the dough from the bowl and then wrap it in plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator to firm, at least an hour and up to three days.

5. On a lightly-floured surface, roll out dough to 1/4 inch thick. With a sharp knife, cut dough into 2-inch wide triangles.

6. Place the triangles on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper 1-inch apart from each other.

Bake until cookies are firm and lightly browned on edges, 10 to 12 minutes.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

STORAGE TIP
The best part about these recipes is they freeze well. Store them in an airtight container for up to four weeks.

CLASSIC CHOICE

Heavenly Chocolate Peanut Butter Balls

A sprinkle of sea salt makes the classic flavours of chocolate and peanut butter feel all grown up.

Makes 25 to 30 balls

INGREDIENTS

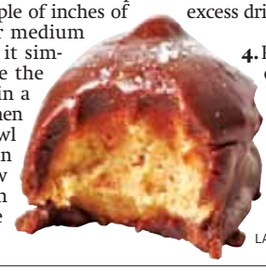
- 1/2 cup creamy natural peanut butter
- 3 Tbsp butter, softened
- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 8 oz chocolate, chopped (or chocolate chips)

DIRECTIONS

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, sugar and butter together until they form a dough. Scoop it and form a ball, cover in plastic wrap and place in the fridge for at least 15 minutes.

2. Using your hands, pinch off a small bit of dough and roll into 1-inch balls. If the dough gets too sticky as you're working just pop it back in the fridge for a few minutes. Place the balls on a parchment lined baking sheet. Place the baking sheet in the freezer for at least half an hour to chill. You want them cold and firm.

3. Place a small sauce pan with a couple of inches of water over medium heat until it simmers. Place the chocolate in a bowl and then set the bowl over the pan (don't allow the bottom to touch the water).



Once chocolate is melted remove from heat. Using a toothpick, pick up each ball, swirl it around in the chocolate; let excess drip off.

4. Place the dipped ball onto parchment lined baking sheet. Sprinkle with a pinch of sea salt before chocolate hardens. Refrigerate until you serve.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

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ST LAURENT

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Girlfriends' Guide is feminist stealth genius

GIRLFRIENDS' GUIDE TO DIVORCE, SEASON 1, EPISODE 3 (SLICE/SHOMI)

Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce tackles motherhood, marriage, loneliness and inequity. HANDOUT

Lyla (Janeane Garofalo), one of three attractive, acerbic friends who are navigating life in their 40s in Los Angeles after divorce, has been called into her son's teacher's office because she sent her nanny to cover Story Time.

"It sends a message to children that they're not your priority," the teacher guilt-mongers. Lyla, a high-powered attorney, lets her have it.

"By all means, I apologize. I apologize for having a job. But here's the thing: I don't work, my kids don't go to school. So if you want to tell me tuition is free, I'll be here for Story Time, and Arbor Day, and every other bullshit holiday that costs me a fortune.

But if you're not going to tell me it's free, I gotta work. Because I'm a working mother. Don't call me in here again."

She stalks out. Once she's through the door, though, her face crumbles, just for a second. She's right, but she feels like dirt anyway.

This show is stealth genius. It lures you in with furiously-paced patter about ex-husbands and breast implants, and then socks it to you with home truths about motherhood, marriage, loneliness, inequity. At its best, Sex and the City pointed out what single women in their 30s had to deal with in the world's most success-oriented town.

Girlfriends' Guide takes that one decade further — it zooms in on the ironies and indignities inflicted on bright, vital 40-somethings in the capital of youth obsession. It's the most feminist show on TV.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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The dish that adds some spice to life

Use premium cocoa in this Cocoa Bird Chili recipe from The Chili Cookbook. CONTRIBUTED

THE CHILI COOKBOOK

Book traces 500 years of history, from Aztecs to Texas cowboys

Chili purists, steel yourselves. Or as author Robb Walsh suggests, at least suspend disbelief and let your taste buds be the judge while taking a colourful romp through chili history — and some creative adaptations of the ancient dish.

The Chili Cookbook has every version you can think of, and explores its evolution from Mexico to the American southwest and how it has influenced mealtime around the globe.

The Chili Cookbook ($24.99) is a 190-page hardcover that traces 500 years of chili, from the first Aztec stew to the tastes of modern Texas cowboys.

There are 60 recipes for chili disciples of all kinds — with or without beans, with or without meat, using venison and lobster, and merged with cuisines of countries like Hungary, Greece and Pakistan. There are recipes from American roadside diners and even the White House.

Walsh also includes a primer on the varieties of dried and fresh chili peppers, and a ranking of commercial chili powders, which often substitute other spices for pure ground chilies.

Or there's a recipe to make your own.

Texan Robb Walsh is a longtime food writer who co-owns El Real Tex-Mex Café in Houston. On his journey into chili pepper culture, he says he discovered heart-stopping recipes in the most unlikely places.

Recipes we are dying to make include: Lobster chili; White chicken poblano chili; Huevos rancheros "Christmas"; Lentil, sweet potato and ancho chili; Frito pie.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RECIPE: COCOA BIRD CHILI

This recipe is adapted from The Chili Cookbook.

- 1-1/2 Tbsp (23 mL) canola or vegetable oil
- 2 medium yellow onions, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped finely
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 mL) dried oregano leaves
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 mL) ground cumin
- 1 lb. (450 g) ground chicken
- 1 lb. (450 g) ground turkey
- ¼ cup (60 mL) chili powder
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) kosher salt
- 28 oz. (796 mL) can whole tomatoes with juice, chopped coarsely
- 3 cups (710 mL) chicken stock
- 8 oz. (250 mL) can tomato sauce or 1 cup (250 mL) canned crushed tomatoes plus 2 Tbsp (30 mL) tomato paste
- 19 oz. (540 mL) can white kidney beans, drained, rinsed
- 19 oz. (540 mL) can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed

Garnish:

- Sour cream
- Chopped red onion
- Chopped fresh cilantro

In large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat.

Add onions and sauté until tender, about 10 minutes. Add garlic, oregano and cumin.

Increase heat to medium high. Add ground turkey and chicken, breaking up with back of spoon. Stir until cooked through.

Add chili powder, bay leaves, cocoa powder and salt. Add tomatoes with juice, stock and tomato sauce (or crushed tomatoes with tomato paste). Bring to boil.

Reduce and simmer, uncovered, for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add white and red beans and simmer until flavours blend, about 10 minutes. Discard bay leaves.

To serve, ladle chili into bowls, add a dollop of sour cream and sprinkle with red onion and cilantro.

Serves 8.

Give an NAC experience they'll always remember

If there is real magic to the holiday season, and many certainly think there is, it surely comes from spending time with those you care about, creating memories, and just drinking in life.

It sometimes gets over-emphasized, but the tradition of gift giving has a wonderful part to play in all this. Done right, it can bring people together, demonstrate thoughtfulness, and show generosity of spirit.

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Any performance. Any stage. For anyone. Now that's holiday magic.

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Gifts that are a touch of home

The Scottish and Irish Store, with two Ottawa locations, has everything the expat could want for their Christmas shopping — food, clothing, jewellery, giftware, China, glassware, CDs and more — but it's not just for those nostalgic about home.

With thousands of items in each shop's 6,000 square-foot space, The Scottish and Irish Store celebrates quality goods from Britain and Ireland, including quality clothing like ladies wool shawls and men's Irish caps, rugby jerseys, kilts (for sale or rental) and tartan scarves. And don't forget the 1,400 different British foods on offer.

Store owner Michael Cox said while it's busy all year round, The Scottish and Irish Store does brisk business during the holidays, with foods for gifts or traditional Christmas meals — things like Cadbury chocolates, Scottish toffee fudge, Marmite spread and Heinz beans (made the British way, with tomato sauce instead of molasses).

CONTRIBUTED

"People want the taste and traditions of home, especially at Christmas," said Cox. "But customers come looking for quality wool pieces too, so we've expanded the ladies wear — capes, socks, sweaters and accessories. And we do our own shipping, so prices are kept as low as possible."

Until Christmas, Scottish and Irish music CDs are 50 per cent off in store. Customers from across Canada and the U.S. looking for something out of the ordinary — unique, quality goods — can also shop online at scottishandirishstore.com

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metro DRIVE

Your essential daily news

Triple-threat Ioniq: Hyundai's first all-electric model also available as hybrid and plug-in hybrid

Forester stands out in a crowd

REVIEW

No need to go all the way with power with this compact SUV

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

Extra power is good for bragging rights, but it isn't always necessary to opt for it just because it's there. That was evident when I drove the two engine choices in Subaru's Forester. While the base engine doesn't sound as impressive on paper as its stronger sibling, it should be enough for many drivers and for a lot less cash.

The entry-level powerplant is a 2.5-litre four-cylinder that makes 170 horsepower. Moving up to the turbocharged 2.0-litre gives you 250 horses, but it's an extra $2,200 to do so. Test-drive them both before you make up your mind solely on the power numbers.

My 2.5i, as it's called, was equipped with a six-speed manual transmission. It keeps the price down, but that's about all; the shifter feels mushy and there's no driving excitement in it. You're best to go for the automatic continuously-variable transmission (CVT). All-wheel drive is standard on all models.

The shifter aside, the Forester has always been one of my favourite vehicles. It's nicely sized and well-balanced, and the steering is light but responsive. It's roomy and comfortable, and the back seats fold flat for extra storage space. The cabin design is handsome and the controls are large and easy to use, save for a few touchscreen icons that can be tough to accurately tap when you're moving.

My 2.5i was in Touring trim, which gave me a 6.2-inch touchscreen stereo, while my turbocharged tester in top-line Limited trim included a 7-inch infotainment system with navigation that, new for 2016, includes map updating. Higher trim lines can also be optioned with EyeSight, which uses a windshield-mounted camera for such features as lane departure warning and collision mitigation.

> **While the base engine doesn't sound as impressive on paper as its stronger sibling, it should be enough for many drivers.**

This smaller SUV/crossover segment is a crowded one, but the Forester holds its own. It's priced about the middle of the pack, and since all-wheel drive is an option on some of its competitors, be sure you're comparing prices accordingly. I think its nimble feel and good road manners set it apart from many of the rest, even if you don't feel a need to go all the way with the power.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 SUBARU FORESTER

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact SUV
Engine (hp/torque). 2.5-litre horizontal four-cylinder (170/174); 2.0-litre turbocharged horizontal four-cylinder (250/258)
Transmissions. Six-speed manual or continuously variable (CVT)
Price. $25,995 (base), $29,995 (as tested), plus destination

COOL FEATURES

- EyeSight camera-based safety technologies
- Steering-responsive fog lights
- Hill descent control
- Panoramic sunroof
- Power-operated liftgate
- Windshield wiper de-icer
- Auto-dimming mirrors

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

POINTS

- Subaru's "symmetrical" all-wheel drive doesn't refer to the power split, but to the position of its engine, transmission, and driveline components.
- The Forester can be ordered as PZEV, for Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle, which uses a specific catalytic converter, air intake and fuel injectors; it was designed to meet California's air standards.
- Turbo models add unique front-end styling but are optioned the same as comparable non-turbo trim lines.

MARKET POSITION

Subaru made its mark by offering all-wheel drive in all of its vehicles (except for the recently-added BRZ sports car), which made it popular for drivers facing Canadian winters, along with using only horizontally-opposed engines.

THE COMPETITION

Ford Escape AWD
Base price: $27,199

Toyota RAV4 AWD
Base price: $27,255

Honda CR-V AWD
Base price: $28,550

Today's coffee, tomorrow's bus fuel

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

BIODIESEL

London to be bean-powered?

British coffee purveyor Bio-bean wants to do more than provide customers with their morning jolt. It wants to use leftover coffee beans to heat homes and power buses in London. Bio-bean wants the city's caffeine dispensaries to contribute used coffee grinds to process them into pellets that can be used to heat buildings, reports Gizmag. Because coffee waste is about 20 per cent oil, it can also be processed into ethanol or biodiesel for use in cars and buses equipped to burn such fuels. The goal is to make enough pellets to heat upward of 15,000 homes, and eventually be used to help power the city transport system, which uses buses that run on biodiesel.

RIGHT FIT

Large vehicles that stop and go are excellent candidates for electrification. They're large enough to carry the batteries and they don't add pollution to already-congested urban areas.

SINGLE CHARGE

Electric transit bus cracks 400-km range

An electric transit bus that can serve any typical transit route in the United States has been developed by Proterra of Greenville, S.C. The company says its Catalyst XR model achieved 410 kilometres on a single charge circulating a test track at 50 km/h, giving it the best efficiency rating ever for a 12-metre bus, almost 160 kilometres more than China's BYD electric bus. The bus tested was fitted with a new generation of storage technology developed by Proterra and comprised eight battery packs. The body is aerodynamically designed and made from lightweight carbon fibre and other advanced composite materials. Proterra says its 10-pack XR configuration could exceed 500 kilometres on a single charge.

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

IMPROVED

Go further with Zero's electric motorcycles

Electric motorcycles have made large advances in a short time, and they continue to get ever better. California-based Zero Motorcycles' 2016 range of virtually silent two-wheelers grows to five distinct rides from three, ranging from street and dual-sport models to an off-road dirt bike. Zero is offering up an all-new motor and increased battery efficiency for longer range and higher capacities across the board, reports Gizmag. Riding the outgoing models hard for a day could cause them to overheat, tripping a thermal management mode that cuts power back to save the engine and battery from thermal damage. The new motor promises to provide full performance for longer, without overheating.

CALIFORNIA

Hydrogen stations making inroads, slowly

Having been chosen by Honda, Hyundai and Toyota as their launching pad for hydrogen fuel-cell cars in North America, California is responding with a growing number of hydrogen filling stations either already built, under construction or going through the permitting or regulatory approval process. But to date, notes Green Car Reports, only two of the about 50 stations underway meet the California Fuel Cell Partnership's definition of "full retail," being equipped to dispense hydrogen, accept all forms of payment as used at a typical gas station, and have no access restrictions. A further handful of stations previously built for demonstration purposes, research and pilot programs are operating but not selling to the general public.

+ FUEL-CELL SEDAN

Mirai demand vastly exceeds supply in U.S.

Early demand for the Toyota Mirai hydrogen fuel-cell sedan outstripped the car's first-year United States allotment by nearly two to one.

Toyota plans to sell 1,000 hand-built Mirais in the United States per year to the end of 2017; but by early October, 1,900 California customers had applied for the 2016-model-year cars.

Available only in California initially, the virtually hand-built car sells for $57,500 US. Toyota expects nine out of 10 customers to lease their Mirai for $499 per month with $3,469 down.

Applicants must submit their requests to a dedicated Mirai order website and be interviewed for suitability, based largely on proximity to the limited number of hydrogen fuelling stations that currently exist in California.

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Starting From Price for 2016 Ram 1500 Sport with Performance Hood shown: $42,135.§

Starting From Price for 2016 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk shown: $35,540.§

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Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown: $31,640.§

Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: $32,140.§

2016 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE
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Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2016 Cherokee North 4x4 (26J+ADE+AFB+RC3)/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey SXT (29E) with a Purchase Price of $29,368/$33,038/$26,323/$27,850 with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 60/72/72/36 months equals 130/156/156/78 bi-weekly payments of $226/$212/$169/$357 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $29,368/$33,038/$26,323/$27,850. ◊$10,000 in Total Discounts is available on new 2016 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of $7,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts, $1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash and $1,000 Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. •Up to $1,000 Holiday Bonus Cash is available until December 31, 2015, on most new 2016 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram and FIAT models excluding the following: 2016 Chrysler 200, Dodge Grand Caravan CVP, Journey CVP/SE Plus, Durango, Charger SRT Hellcat, Challenger SRT Hellcat, Viper and Jeep Grand Cherokee models. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your retailer for complete details. ΩFinance Pull-Ahead Bonus Cash and 1% Rate Reduction is available to eligible customers on the retail purchase of select 2015/2016 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or FIAT models at participating retailers. LIMITED TIME OFFER. Finance Pull-Ahead Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. 1% Rate Reduction applies on approved credit to most qualifying subvented financing transactions through RBC, TD Auto Finance & Scotiabank. 1% rate reduction cannot be used to reduce the final interest rate below 0%. Eligible customers include all original and current owners of a Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or FIAT model with an eligible standard/subvented finance or lease contract maturing after January 1, 2015. Trade-in not required. See retailer for complete details and exclusions. ➤3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2015/2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport FWD (24A) with a Purchase Price of $29,368/$25,675 with a $998/$0 down payment, financed at 3.49% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $157/$142 with a cost of borrowing of $4,185/$3,788 and a total obligation of $33,553.47/$29,462.88. ††2.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Cherokee North 4x4 (26J+ADE+AFB+RC3) with a Purchase Price of $33,038 with a $0 down payment, financed at 2.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $179 with a cost of borrowing of $4,150 and a total obligation of $37,187.67. ♦Save the Freight offer applies to specially marked 2016 Jeep Cherokee North 4x4 (26J+ADE+AFB+RC3) and 2016 Jeep Cherokee Limited 4x4 (26G+AFF+AHT+RC3) models only. Offer available at participating Ontario retailers, while quantities last. ‡3.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $20,995/$20,150 with a $0 down payment, financed at 3.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $118/$113 with a cost of borrowing of $3,563/$3,420 and a total obligation of $24,558.35/$23,569.94. »$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2015/2016 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2014/2015/2016 Ram 2500/3500/Cab & Chassis, or 2015 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before December 1, 2015. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Baeumler Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one $1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ▬Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 6.99% financing available on select 2015/2016 models. Financing example: 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of $20,995 financed at 6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $146 with a cost of borrowing of $5,614 and a total finance obligation of $26,608.53. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ∞Based on 2014 *Ward's* Middle Cross Utility segmentation. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by FCA Canada Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

Tucson rides tall in flexibility, value

USED VEHICLE

Be sure to check suspension and transmission of 2010-15 models

Launched for model year 2010, the second-generation Hyundai Tucson competed primarily with the Equinox, CR-V, RAV4, Patriot and other compact crossover SUV models. All units offered seating for five, a decent cargo area, and a tall and commanding driving position.

Feature content included standard electronic stability control, Bluetooth, a navigation system, backup camera, heated seats and more. Note that model-year 2014 saw an update across the Tucson range, adding fuel-saving technology under the hood, and more feature content. Updated looks and a re-tuned suspension helped round out the updates.

Look for four-cylinder power on all used models, with output as high as 180 horsepower. Six-speed transmissions in automatic or manual were available, as was all-wheel drive, which comes only with the automatic transmission.

The test drive

Test-drive the used Tucson with an ear for rattles, clunks, tapping sounds or popping noises from the rear end, especially in cold weather. Unwelcome sounds like these could be the result of a suspension bushing that's worn, and allowing metal components to contact one another. Other unwelcome noises have been reported as a precursor to an under-warranty replacement of some suspension components, like the shock absorbers or shock mounts. If any unwelcome noises are detected on your test drive be sure to have them investigated by a mechanic.

Next, check the shift lever, multiple times, as you change from Park to Drive to Reverse and the like. Any issue shifting smoothly between positions, or unwelcome hesitation or clunking during shifts, may require attention to the shifter linkage, in the form of lubrication, adjustment or replacement. While shifting gear positions frequently, ensure your Tucson candidate's backup camera (if equipped) works as expected, several times. Some owners have reported issues with non-functionality.

Note that some owners have reported issues with the Tucson's automatic transmission, relating to hard shifting, failure to respond with a downshift, or random clunking from beneath the vehicle during shifts. Though somewhat inconclusive, these issues may be software- and sensor-related in nature, possibly caused by a bad vehicle speed sensor, or a bad temperature sensor within the transmission. Some owners have had success with having new software installed to the transmission control computer, or having that computer reset.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

COURTESY HYUNDAI

What owners like

Tucson's "just-right" sizing, cargo accommodations, driving feel and storage space throughout the cabin are highly rated. Overall value, a comfortable ride, safety features and fuel mileage are also commonly praised by owners.

What owners dislike

Some owners wish for seat fabric that's less easily stained. Many owners report satisfaction with fuel economy, but a healthy cluster of owners also complain that they're unable to achieve the factory-claimed fuel efficiency figures.

The verdict

Tucson was loved for value and an all-around pleasant and flexible driving experience, though a list of owner-reported issues illustrates the importance of a pre-purchase inspection at a Hyundai dealer before your purchase. Commonly reported issues should be easy for a technician to detect and repair.

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SL AWD Premium model shown▲

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1.8 SL model shown▲

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The Pittsburgh Penguins announced winger Pascal Dupuis has been forced to retire due to a medical condition related to blood clots

Coach has Sens soaring on his first anniversary

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Murray Pam
FOR METRO

Tuesday marked the one-year anniversary of Senators GM Bryan Murray relieving Paul MacLean of his coaching duties. Assistant Dave Cameron was promoted and the club hasn't looked back.

After failing to earn a playoff berth the previous season, Murray put MacLean on notice. Twenty-seven games into the 2014-15 campaign, plodding along with a .500 record, the GM took matters into his own hands and dismissed his coach.

Enter Cameron, who took over a spiralling team ranked in the lower echelon of the league in goals scored (2.59) and shots attempted (28.8), while allowing a NHL-worst 34.4 shots per game.

Two months later, the tide turned. Cameron made subtle changes. Patrick Wiercioch was no longer a healthy scratch. Mike Hoffman's and Mark Stone's ice-time increased, as did their production.

And when Andrew Hammond grabbed hold of the crease, erasing records along the way, the rest as they say, was history.

Not including Tuesday's tilt with the Panthers, Cameron has a full 82 games under his belt. Only four teams have earned more than the Senators 105 points during this span.

Though, the club is 14-8-5 through 27 games this season, things aren't as rosy as they appear.

Dave Cameron addresses the team at the bench Dec. 3 against Chicago. JANA CHYTILOVA/GETTY IMAGES

> **This team has been a real treat.**
> Dave Cameron, as Sens' 2014-15 playoff run ended

Thanks to the scoring exploits of Hoffman (14 goals) and Erik Karlsson (20 points in 12 games), and Bobby Ryan's resurgence to a point-per-game player, the Senators rank fifth in goals league-wide.

What sounds like a positive is actually a bit concerning. At 28.3 shots per game, 25th in the NHL, the team is actually firing the puck a tad less than it did under Cameron's predecessor. The Senators are buoyed by the NHL's third-best shooting percentage, (8.9).

In fact, second period totals boggle the mind. The Senators have out-scored the opposition 34-24, while compiling a minus-46 shot differential. Credit the stellar play of goalie Craig Anderson who leads all starters in 5-on-5 save percentage with a .926 mark.

Advanced stats gurus will tell you this is unsustainable. At a certain point the Senators "puck luck" could run out. And if Anderson and the soon-to-return Hammond face upwards of 34 shots per night, fatigue may set in eventually.

However, they're not only NHL teams carrying what's termed a high PDO. Seven of the top eight clubs in this category are currently holding down post-season spots, with the Senators at No. 2.

Last season Cameron and his staff were able to resolve these issues successfully. One year later, Senators fans hope history repeats itself.

WITH FILE FROM CANADIAN PRESS

CONCUSSIONS

Family of late player Montador suing NHL

The family of the late Steve Montador is suing the NHL over concussions and other brain injuries the defenceman suffered during his playing career.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. federal court, alleges that the league collected data on concussions as far back as 1997 but failed to warn Montador about the dangers.

Montador died in February, and an autopsy showed the 35-year-old suffered from Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, a progressive degenerative disease that can be caused by repetitive brain trauma.

Montador GETTY IMAGES

The family alleges that Montador suffered "thousands of sub-concussive brain traumas" along with multiple concussions.

The 34-page complaint states that the NHL "failed to keep (Montador) reasonably safe during his career and utterly failed to provide him with crucial medical information on the permanent ramifications of brain trauma."

Montador played 571 regular-season and 43 playoff games for six NHL teams.

The allegations against the league have not been proven in court. CANADIAN PRESS

Salary cap requirements led the Blackhawks to trade Patrick Sharp (pictured), Brandon Saad and Johnny Oduya shortly after they won the 2015 Stanley Cup. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

HOCKEY

NHL sees $3M salary cap hike in '16-17

While the Canadian dollar continues to struggle, NHL revenues are up enough that the salary cap could increase by as much as $3 million US for next season.

The Canadian dollar is currently worth 74 cents U.S., something that hurts the league when some of its most lucrative markets are Canadian. But commissioner Gary Bettman said speculation and commentary about the declining Canadian dollar is "a little off the mark" as business is still going well.

Board members said the early projection for the 2016-17 salary cap was about $74.5 million, up from $71.4 million. But that depends on several factors.

"When I give a number, they're all soft this time of year, so I don't want to pinpoint any number," Bettman said. "Don't take that to the bank yet because it's early. It's only December."

A year ago the board was given a rough projection of $73 million, but that was contingent on the Canadian dollar being worth 88 cents. It continued to fall.

> **$74.5M**
> **The early projection for the salary cap, up from $71.4 million in 2015-16.**

The hike would be welcome for those who spend to the ceiling. Think about the Tampa Bay Lightning with captain Steven Stamkos still unsigned or the Los Angeles Kings, who are working to get a deal done with centre Anze Kopitar.

"The league has been pretty accurate in their estimation of the cap in the coming year," Lightning GM Steve Yzerman said.

"So it does help you plan a little bit and you have a better idea."

The Stanley Cup-champion Chicago Blackhawks could have used more room last summer when they traded Patrick Sharp, Brandon Saad and Johnny Oduya and let Brad Richards leave in free agency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ronaldo racks up record

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Star becomes first player to net 10 goals in group stage

Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score 10 goals or more in the group stage of the Champions League, claiming four as Real Madrid routed Malmo 8-0 on Tuesday in Madrid.

Ronaldo reached 11 goals in six games, surpassing the nine scored by Luiz Adriano with Shakhtar Donetsk last season. Ronaldo also scored nine times in the 2013-14 season group stage.

Ronaldo also set up two goals by Karim Benzema, who scored a hat trick.

Mateo Kovacic rounded out the scoring.

Madrid secured the biggest margin of victory in the Champions League since Liverpool defeated Besiktas also by 8-0 in 2007.

The game meant little for Madrid because it had already secured first place in Group A, but the convincing victory helped ease the pressure on coach Rafa Benitez and president Florentino Perez. Fans were still angry at the demoralizing 4-0 home loss to Barcelona in the Spanish league and disqualification from the Copa del Rey because of an ineligible player.

"We are very satisfied and happy for all of the Madrid fans who didn't lose faith in this team," said Benitez, who was in command of Liverpool when it routed Besiktas in 2007.

"This is football, things change week after week. It's important for us to keep winning."

Meanwhile, Ronaldo's former club Manchester United was relegated to the Europa League after getting beat 3-2 by Wolfsburg, as the German side advanced to the round of 16 for the first time.

The loss, coupled with PSV Eindhoven's 2-1 home victory over CSKA Moscow, dropped United to third place in Group B.

Wolfsburg won the group and PSV also advanced.

Atletico Madrid won Group C by beating Benfica 2-1 to leapfrog the Portuguese host, which took second.

In Group D, Manchester City scored three late goals in a five-minute span to beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-2 and finish top for the first time. Juventus, last season's runner-up, wasted a chance to finish first with a 1-0 loss at Sevilla, although still advanced.

The other four groups wrap up play Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cristiano Ronaldo, top, scored four goals on Tuesday. DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUESDAY **Group A**

MADRID	MALMO
8	0

FIFA SCANDAL

Platini pledges to tell 'only the truth' in appeal

Michel Platini arrived at the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Tuesday pledging to "tell the truth, only the truth" as he appeals against a 90-day FIFA ban.

The suspended UEFA president wants CAS to freeze his ban by Friday, allowing him to resume campaigning for the FIFA presidency ahead of the Feb. 26 election. It would also allow him to attend the 2016 European Championship draw on Saturday in Paris.

Michel Platini GETTY IMAGES

Platini and Blatter face possible life bans when they appear before the FIFA ethics committee at the governing body's headquarters in Zurich next week. The case centres on the payment and timing of the $2 million that Blatter approved for Platini in 2011 as backdated salary.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Chapman assault charges dropped

Police say there was "insufficient evidence" to charge Cincinnati Reds closer Aroldis Chapman in a domestic disturbance incident between the pitcher and his girlfriend at his South Florida home, and they've closed the investigation.

But the matter appears to have put on hold a proposed trade sending Chapman to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Joe Torre, MLB's chief baseball officer, said Tuesday that there is no timetable in making a decision on Chapman's status under the league's new domestic violence policy. He said the league first learned of the incident late Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aroldis Chapman GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Browns place Manziel back in pocket

Johnny Manziel's timeout has ended. He's starting for the Browns again.

The polarizing quarterback will play Sunday against the San Francisco 49ers, returning to the lineup after being benched two games by coach Mike Pettine for defiantly partying during the team's bye week.

Pettine is giving Manziel another chance after the second-year QB broke a promise that he wouldn't become a distraction when the team was off last month. Manziel had been named the starter for Cleveland's final six games on Nov. 17 only to throw away the opportunity with his escapades.

He was demoted to third string, but moved up one spot last week when Josh McCown sustained a season-ending collarbone break.

Pettine feels Johnny Football has paid his dues.

"He's been solid in the building over the last couple of weeks and we are hopeful he takes this opportunity to continue to build on the progress he's made on the field throughout the season," Pettine said. "The goal for every game is to go out and win, and Johnny needs to show that he can put us in position to do so during these last four weeks of the season."

Manziel will replace Austin Davis, who started Sunday's 37-3 embarrassing loss to Cincinnati. Davis, the 24th quarterback to start for the Browns since 1999, didn't do anything to lose his job, but not enough to hang on to it either. The Browns lost two wide receivers to injuries against the Bengals.

The Browns have changed starting quarterbacks six times this season — this is the third time Manziel has been given the job.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vincent Rey of the Bengals attempts to tackle Browns QB Johnny Manziel on Nov. 5 in Cincinnati. ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

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RECIPE Turkey and Sweet Potato Skillet

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The holidays are upon us but we can't survive on cookies alone. You're going to need the balance of some simple, healthy recipes. This one comes together in a snap.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

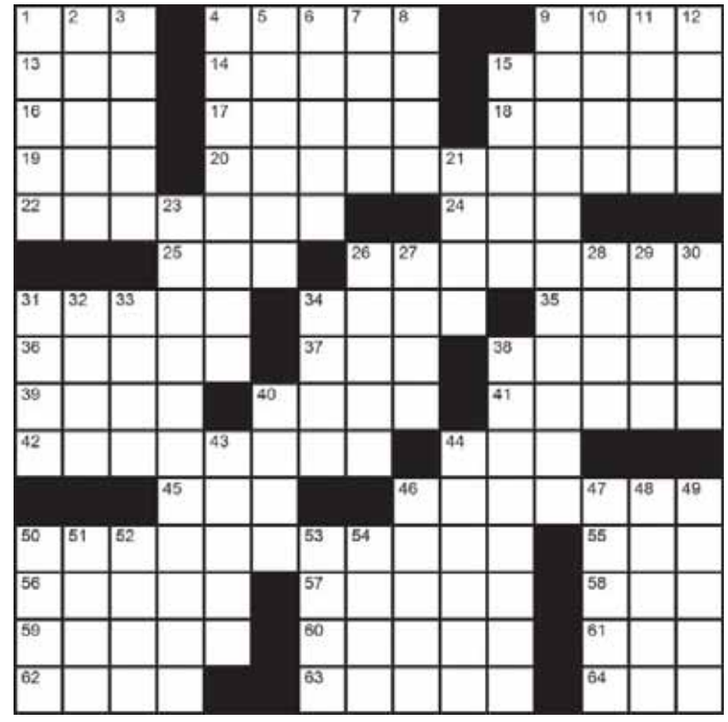
Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb ground turkey
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 Tsps chili powder
- 1 1/2 cups yellow pepper, diced
- 1 1/2 cups sweet potato, peeled and diced
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup mozzarella, grated

Directions
1. In a large, oven-safe skillet, pour in oil, then brown your turkey over medium heat, breaking it up with the back of a spoon. Cook for about 5 minutes. Add the onions and garlic and cook for another 5 minutes until they are fragrant and begin to soften. Sprinkle the chili powder over top and stir.
2. Add the yellow pepper and allow it to soften for another 3 minutes or so. Stir in the sweet potatoes, cover and cook for about 10 minutes. Stir occasionally and add a bit of water if things dry out. Check to see that sweet potatoes are tender. Add salt and pepper to taste.
3. Sprinkle grated cheese.
4. Turn broiler on. Place the skillet under the heat for a minute or two until the cheese melts and just starts to brown. Remove carefully from the oven and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Enjoyed the bench
4. Window material
9. Pear part
13. French vineyard
14. Montreal-based jazz vocalist Ms. Lee
15. Take care of, as arrangements: 2 wds.
16. Comedian Mr. James
17. Separated
18. "_ _ done now!" (Finished ...finally!)
19. Saguenay sidekick
20. Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, _-_ Mark A.G. Norman
22. Industrial Revolution creation
24. Standoff site in Quebec, 1990
25. "Growing Pains" Canadian star ...his initials-sharers
26. New Brunswick town on Chaleur Bay
31. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jordan
34. Small horse
35. Sea lettuce
36. Winnebago owners, informally
37. Bonnet or derby
38. Stable tresses
39. Vintner's prefix
40. Salad or stirfry ingredient
41. Show anchored by Ben Mulroney
42. Internet Explorer, and others
44. Ms. MacGraw
45. "_-Devil" (1989)
46. Cloudiness
50. Late night host who does a Neil Young impression: 2 wds.
55. Me: French
56. Benefit
57. Prefix to 'graphy' (Fancy writing)
58. Men's deodorant brand
59. Immense-ish
60. Functional
61. Mr. Bellows
62. Looped cross
63. Mischa Barton series: wd. + letters
64. Conclusion

DOWN
1. "Beat it!"
2. Wonderful whiff
3. Gladiator's garment
4. Solemnity
5. Rabbits, in Rimouski
6. Has _ _ up one's sleeve
7. Desert-like
8. _ _ good example
9. Beaver = _ rodent
10. Rupture
11. French: Ici _ _ (Here and there)
12. _ Flanders (1722 Daniel Defoe book)
15. Latka's beloved on "Taxi"
21. "Finding Nemo" (2003) character
23. Big name in Canadian almanacs
26. Rake over the _
27. Poker stake
28. Arm bone
29. Mr. Knievel
30. Chore
31. "No _!" (Happy to oblige)
32. Best _ (Greatest)
33. _ _'clock (Coffee break time)
34. "_ Lap" (1983)
38. _ _ (Bryan Adams duettist on "When You're Gone")
40. Rolling Stones guitarist Mr. Richards, affectionately to fans
43. Demurely
44. Mr. Creed (Rocky's opponent in the fight of his career)
46. "Kukla, Fran and _"
47. Picture
48. Poison
49. Give way
50. Morning swig
51. Tennis great Mr. Lendl
52. Conceal
53. _ _ above the rest (Better than)
54. Wood strip

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today the important things in life, such as love and family, will come into focus and the not-so-important things, such as money and ambition, will be seen for the illusions they are.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will gain more in the long run if you help others as well as yourself. A good deed done now will pay off later, so act only in ways that bring smiles to other people's faces.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You could come into money this week, but you may sabotage the situation if you get suspicious and wonder what people's motives are. They are not trying to trick you, they are trying to help.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will meet someone who attracts you today and while there may be nothing outwardly special about them on an inner level you just seem to fit together. Are you soul mates? Maybe, maybe not, but you are certainly on the same wavelength.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Try not to make promises that you may have to break. Make no promises at all. If you feel that you must at the very least add a get-out clause.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Get deeply involved in a cause that is close to your heart. It is not enough just to make a donation or cheer from afar, you have got to get personal. Roll up your sleeves.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do more for yourself. Find ways to cut back on your commitments without making it seem as if you are abandoning friends and loved ones.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Relationships will go well today. There is something of the celebrity about you at the moment — heads turn in your direction wherever you go. Where did your star quality come from? Who knows, but don't waste it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to avoid people who always seem to be talking you down. If you want to feel good about yourself spend time with those who like you for who you are, not some impossible ideal of who you should be.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make it your business to make other people feel good. Not only will it cheer them up but it will cheer you up as well. The more you mix with strangers the more alive you will feel.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today's Sun-Uranus link means you are at your best and almost anything you turn your hand to will work out well. Make sure people in positions of power know who you are and what you can do.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be eager to prove yourself but be selective. Don't spread yourself too thin. Focus on what means most to you and aim to be the best at it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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9							5	1
8	3							6
		1				8	9	4
		4			7			
		3	5		8			

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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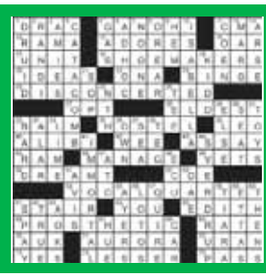

2	9	8	5	7	6	1	4	3
5	4	1	8	3	9	7	2	6
3	6	7	2	1	4	8	9	5
8	1	4	3	2	5	6	7	9
7	5	6	9	4	1	2	3	8
9	3	2	7	6	8	4	5	1
4	8	9	1	5	2	3	6	7
1	2	3	6	9	7	5	8	4
6	7	5	4	8	3	9	1	2

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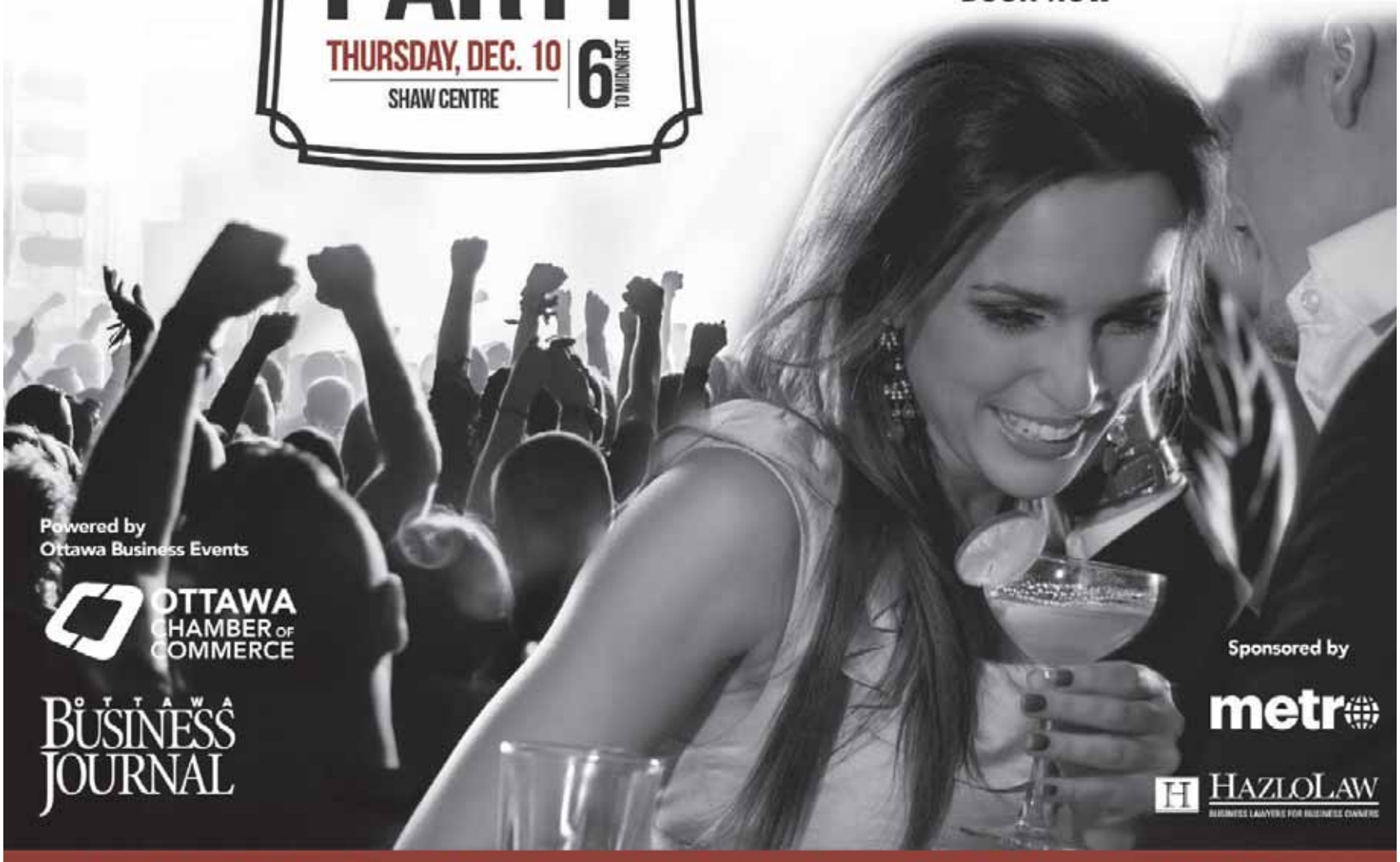

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